

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 4 7 wherein the step of placing a call links said endpoint to said ~~conference-gatekeeper~~ packet-switched conferencing system component through said packet-switched ~~network~~ audio conferencing system.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 4 7 wherein the routing instructions for said audio conference include at least an ~~LCF~~ a location found signal indicating the selected ~~MCU~~ multiple control unit.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 4 7 wherein the call includes at least an ~~LRQ~~ a location request signal.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:~~ A method of establishing an audio conference in an audio conferencing system, the method comprising:

initiating a call from an endpoint to said audio conferencing system, said call indicating said audio conference;

selecting, in a conference allocation and control system in said audio conferencing system, a multiple control unit to host said audio conference;

determining in said GACS conference allocation and control system whether the call from said endpoint contains adequate information to establish said audio conference;

responding from said GACS conference allocation and control system to said endpoint with routing instructions to an ~~IVR~~ interactive voice response server when there is inadequate information to establish said audio conference;

connecting said endpoint to said IVR interactive voice response server when there is inadequate information to route said call;

gathering in said IVR interactive voice response server, after connecting said endpoint to said IVR interactive voice response server, said adequate information to establish said audio conference; and

transferring said endpoint from said IVR interactive voice response server to said selected MCU multiple control unit after said IVR interactive voice response server gathers said adequate information.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1 further~~ A method for adding an additional endpoint to an audio conference in a purely packet-switched audio conferencing system, said method comprising:

placing a call from an endpoint to a packet-switched conferencing system component, said call indicating an audio conference;

selecting, in a conference allocation and control system in said audio conferencing system, a multiple control unit to host said audio conference;

~~further having a dial-out method comprising the steps of:~~

initiating a call request from said selected MCU multiple control unit to said ~~conference gatekeeper, packet-switched conferencing system component~~, said call request indicating said additional endpoint;

~~transmitting an LRQ from the conference gatekeeper to the gatekeeper cloud;~~

~~returning a destination address to said conference gatekeeper from said gatekeeper cloud, said destination address corresponding to said additional endpoint;~~

~~forwarding said destination address from said conference gatekeeper~~ returning a destination address from said packet-switched conferencing system component to said selected MCU; multiple control unit, said destination address corresponding to said additional endpoint;

establishing a point-to-point call from said MCU multiple control unit to said additional endpoint based on said destination address, thereby bringing said additional endpoint into said audio conference.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 4 7 further supporting full service audio conferencing using a reservation system and a call agent.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8 wherein the reservation system and the call agent are tightly integrated.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 8 wherein the reservation system and the call agent are loosely integrated.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 4 7 further including ~~the step of~~ dynamically routing an operator voice path to service multiple MCUs multiple control units.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 4 7 further including ~~the step of~~ renegotiating the destination of a voice path to move an audio conference participant from said selected MCU multiple control unit to a second MCU multiple control unit.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 4 7 further including ~~the step of~~ moving said audio conference from said selected MCU multiple control unit to a second MCU multiple control unit.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 4 7 further including ~~the steps of~~ comprising:

providing said audio conference to a streaming protocol server from said selected MCU multiple control unit;

connecting a passive participant to said streaming protocol server; and

broadcasting said audio conference from said streaming protocol server to a said passive participant.

Claims 16-31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (new): The method of claim 6 wherein said selecting said multiple control unit comprises:

selecting in said conference allocation and control system a first multiple control unit to host said audio conference when said audio conference is inactive.

Claim 33 (new): The method of claim 6 wherein said selecting said multiple control unit comprises:

selecting in said conference allocation and control system a second multiple control unit to host said audio conference when said audio conference is active.

Claim 34 (new): The method of claim 6 further comprising:

responding from said conference allocation and control system to said endpoint with queried routing instructions, said queried routing instructions indicating said selected multiple control unit.

Claim 35 (new): A method of establishing an audio conference in an audio conferencing system, the method comprising:

initiating a call from an endpoint to said audio conferencing system, said call indicating said audio conference;

determining in a conference allocation and control system whether the call from said endpoint contains adequate information to establish said audio conference;

responding from said conference allocation and control system to said endpoint with routing instructions to an interactive voice response server when there is inadequate information to establish said audio conference;

connecting said endpoint to said interactive voice response server when there is inadequate information to route said call;

gathering in said interactive voice response server, after connecting said endpoint to said interactive voice response server, said adequate information to establish said audio conference; and

transferring said endpoint from said interactive voice response server to said audio conference after said interactive voice response server gathers said adequate information.

Claim 36 (new): The method of claim 35 further comprising:
selecting, in said conference allocation and control system, a multiple control unit to host said audio conference.

Claim 37 (new): The method of claim 36 further including dynamically routing an operator voice path to service multiple multiple control units.

Claim 38 (new): The method of claim 36 further including renegotiating the destination of a voice path to move an audio conference participant from said selected multiple control unit to a second multiple control unit.

Claim 39 (new): The method of claim 36 further including moving said audio conference from said selected multiple control unit to a second multiple control unit.